

Administrative Determination (AD)
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office

A. BLM Office: Anchorage Field Office **Lease/Serial Case File No.:** A-028142

Proposed Action Title/Type: Drilling of a Natural Gas Well

Location of Proposed Action: Section 6, T. 4 N., R. 11 W., Seward Meridian

Description of the Proposed Action

Marathon Oil Company is proposing to drill a new gas well (KBU 23-7) on an existing pad within the Kenai Beluga Unit (KBU). The proposed well's surface location is 317' From the South Line and 1,105' From the West Line in Section 6, T. 4 N., R. 11 W., Seward Meridian. KBU 23-7 will be directionally drilled to an estimated total depth of 9,113.5' (7,725' Total Vertical Depth) from an existing pad (41-7) in the Kenai Gas Field. Access to the site will be gained through a preexisting road. No new road construction will take place. The 41-7 pad has recently been expanded and will be able to accommodate the new well. Water used in the drilling process will be drawn from an existing well on the 41-7 pad.

Cuttings will be dewatered on location and then hauled to Pad 41-18, along with any excess mud, to be disposed of in a Class II disposal well KU 24-7. All produced household and approved industrial garbage will be hauled to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Soldotna Landfill. Clear completion fluids will be hauled to Pad 34-31 of the Kenai Gas Field and injected into an approved disposal well, WD #1. Unused chemicals will be returned to the vendors that provided them. Chemical usage will be kept to a minimum. Produced sewage will also be hauled off site to the Kenai sanitation facility.

A minimum camp will be set up on-site to house various supervisory and service company personnel, amounting to approximately four trailer house type structures. Bottled water will be used for human consumption, while potable water will be drawn from the existing on-site well. S and R will collect and transport sanitary wastes to their ADEC approved disposal facility. Reclamation of the surface will take place after KBU 23-7 and the other existing wells on the pad have been plugged and abandoned.

Applicant (if any): Marathon Oil Co.

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

The BLM has not developed a land use plan for surface or subsurface oil and gas development in the Kenai Peninsula area.

The Proposed Action is nearly identical to that which is described in the EA-AK-040-99-022. The aforementioned addressed the impacts of drilling the KBU 33-6 and the KBU 42-7. The FONSI for EA-AK-040-99-022 was signed on August 26, 1999. Activities outlined in the EA are nearly identical to those in the current Proposed Action. The impacts are assumed to be identical. Therefore, EA-AK-040-99-022 assesses the impacts of the Proposed Action and provides a basis for a decision on the proposal, 43 CFR 1610.8 (b)(1).

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the Proposed Action.

Environmental Assessment AK-040-99-022 and the associated Finding of No Significant Impact adequately cover all environmental issues associated with the drilling of an additional well on Pad 41-7: Application for Permit to Drill, Marathon Oil Company, Kenai Gas Field (KBU 23-7), 1/5/04.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current Proposed Action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current Proposed Action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

The Proposed Action is essentially the same as the Proposed Action in EA AK-040-99-022. The location of the current Proposed Action is one section north of where activity took place during the 1999 drilling of Wells KBU 33-6 and KBU 42-7.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

The range of alternatives analyzed in EA AK-040-99-022 have not changed, and are still relevant to the current Proposed Action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?

The following Critical Elements have been analyzed and will not be affected:

Air Quality
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Environmental Justice
Farmlands (Prime or Unique)
Flood Plains

Invasive, Non-Native Species
Native American Religious Concerns
Wastes (Hazardous and Solid)
Water Quality (Drinking or Ground)
Wetlands/Riparian Zones
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Wilderness

Cultural Resources, T&E Species, and Subsistence have all been analyzed and will not be affected. Compliance and Determination reports have been prepared, and are filed with AK-040-04-AD/DNA-011.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current Proposed Action?

The methodology and analytical approach utilized in EA AK-040-99-022 is consistent with that which is outlined in the Proposed Action.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current Proposed Action?

All impacts (direct and indirect) remain unchanged. The current Proposed Action falls under existing site-specific impact analyses outlined in EA AK-040-99-022.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

The cumulative impacts outlined in EA-AK-040-99-022 remain unchanged, and are applicable to the current Proposed Action.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current Proposed Action?

EA-AK-040-99-022 involved a consultation with the Alaska Heritage Resource Survey. The resulting documentation from that consultation remains effective for the current Proposed Action. No further consultations shall be necessary.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

Interdisciplinary Analyses will be conducted by AFO Lands and AFO Resources staff (see associated NEPA routing sheet). Being that the Kenai Beluga Unit is located off of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, USF&WS is not required to comment on the proposed activity.

F. Mitigation Measures:

No mitigation measures are required for this Proposed Action.

G. Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/s/ June Bailey
Anchorage Field Manager

01-14-04
Date